

REMARKS

Claims 35-59 are currently pending in this application and are subject to a restriction requirement.

Response to Restriction Requirement

According to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants are required to elect a single invention as set forth in Groups I and II:

Group I: Claims 35-53, which according to the Office Action, are drawn to a process for the modification or the treatment of a surface by coating the surface with a composition comprising at least one polymeric micelle and a process for the modification or the treatment of a surface, said process comprising mixing polymers;

Group II: Claims 54-59, which according to the Office Action, are drawn to a modified surface or treated surface.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 35-53 for examination with traverse.

According to M.P.E.P. § 803, "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. *See* MPEP § 803 (emphasis added). In the instant case, an examination of claims directed to a process for the modification or treatment of a surface and the related treated surface would not present an undue burden for the Examiner. Applicants note that a search of Group I would likely result in references disclosing the modified or treated surface as well. For example, it is common in scientific publications disclosing a process of treating a surface to additionally disclose the related treated surface. Therefore,

Applicants respectfully submit that examining all of the pending claims would not present an undue burden for the Examiner and this restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance; notice to that effect is hereby solicited. Should any issues remain to be discussed in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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